



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE  
URBAN POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

**FOCUS CITIES  
RESEARCH INITIATIVE**



**ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD AT A TIME**



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## FOREWORD

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Welcome to the Focus Cities Research Initiative of the Urban Poverty and Environment Program (UPE) at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). UPE is about building trust through collaboration between local communities and local governments; financing pilot projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to community problems; and developing economic incentives empowering the urban poor to reduce their poverty while improving the environment.

The Focus Cities Research Initiative is a key component of IDRC's urban programming where communities become active participants in research to reduce urban environmental burdens on the poor. These outcomes will provide evidence that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is possible when governments and their citizens work together to find solutions.

Inside this book you will find five case studies highlighting the countries, cities and neighbourhoods where our Focus Cities research teams are just beginning to implement their four-year projects. Each one offers unique challenges and opportunities for improving the lives of the urban poor. But they also share a key element — commitments from local governments to work together with community groups and research institutes throughout the research process.

UPE is delighted to have direct local government participation in each one of our Focus City projects. The Kampala team includes a district mayor, for example, and the Colombo team includes the Deputy Commissioner. In practical terms, this means seeing government officials at workshops with their sleeves rolled-up, working with NGO activists who not long before were criticizing government policies. Such direct participation and collaboration by city authorities to work with community groups and research institutes on problems that affect the poor is unusual and promising.

We invite you to follow and share the progress of these Focus Cities as they work towards improving people's lives.



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# The Way Forward

## HOW THE URBAN POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM HELPS IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, ENHANCE NATURAL RESOURCE USE, AND FIGHT URBAN POVERTY

We live in an increasingly urban world. The process of rapid urbanization is at once full of promise and fraught with peril. To help fulfil this promise and reduce the impact of these perils, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has created the Urban Poverty and Environment Program (UPE). Focused on targeted research, empowering local communities, and disseminating knowledge, UPE strives to improve environmental management, enhance natural resource use, and fight urban poverty.

### The promise and perils of urbanization

Today, about half of the world's population — some three billion people — live in urban areas. Projections suggest that 60 percent will live in cities by 2015. The latest statistics also indicate that countries with developing economies account for a large and rapidly increasing proportion of the world's urban population: 40 percent of Africa's population and 77 percent of those living in Latin America and the Caribbean reside in urban areas.

Cities are engines of trade and commerce that fuel economic growth. Generally, the more developed a society, the more urbanized it is. Urban areas are also adept at rapidly spreading knowledge and technological innovation. Rural and urban populations and economies are often viewed as separate, and in competition for investments and government priorities. But urban and rural development are not competing strategies. Cities and the countryside are linked and interdependent. Urbanization supports demographic transition and slows population growth. Access to urban markets stimulates agricultural productivity and diversifies agricultural production. And the remittances provided by family members living in cities help family members in rural areas.

Yet the unfortunate reality is that far too many of the men and women in developing countries who migrate to cities in search of greater economic opportunity and a more secure future fail to find either. More than one billion people worldwide live in crowded, dirty, and dangerous urban slums that are largely bereft of clean water and sanitation, and ideal incubators for disease.

The degraded environments of urban slums exacerbate poverty's harmful effects. Poor urban residents with limited access to credit are forced to settle on marginal lands that lack essential services such as clean water, proper sanitation, and safe sewage disposal and treatment. The location of urban slums on land unsuitable for

### INCLUDING URBAN AGRICULTURE IN MUNICIPAL PLANNING

*IDRC works with researchers, municipal policy makers, and urban producers to explore the use of vacant areas for urban agriculture. Projects examine land use planning, municipal support programs, and participatory approaches to include urban agriculture in municipal policy. In Rosario, Argentina, landowners lease their vacant land to the municipal government, earning both rent and tax exemptions, while the municipality signs a sublease with farmers' groups to grant them temporary users' rights.*

*In fact, the Rosario project was recognized as an ideal example of using best practices to improve the environment. The results of the project led the Minimum Cost Housing Group at McGill University's School of Architecture to launch the Edible Landscape Project (ELP). A partnership with IDRC and the Netherlands' ETC-Urban Agriculture unit, ELP aims to re-engineer cities from traditional centres of food consumption to primary hubs for food production. Through ELP, the McGill group coordinates research in three cities: Colombo, Sri Lanka;*

*Kampala, Uganda; and Rosario, Argentina. Municipal officials, architects, and urban planners will work closely with community members to improve housing, income, and food security. McGill will also train architects, researchers, and urban planners to create designs that foster urban agriculture.*



Urban farmers in Rosario, Argentina, support their families by selling produce at local markets (IDRC Photo: Frederico Gutierrez).

*Colombo and Kampala have been selected as Focus Cities to further build on these results through integrating other urban environmental themes.*

## **PROMOTING ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE GREY WATER REUSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

*The urban poor are far more dependent on cash than their rural counterparts because they must purchase almost all of their daily needs. UPE projects focus on economic incentives.*

*In response to needs identified by community-based nongovernmental organizations and policy makers at a workshop in Palestine, IDRC helped establish grey water reuse projects in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon, and established an informal regional network to share the results of these efforts.*

*The first Jordanian project, led by the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development, has resulted in 60 percent of household wastewater being treated and reused in gardens. This process has enabled many families to supplement food purchases and sell surplus*

*food, helping families save or earn an average of 10 percent of their incomes. Families also decreased their water consumption by approximately 15 percent by diverting wastewater from overflowing septic tanks.*

*The project has also inspired changes in public policy. For instance, Jordan's new building code, currently under review, now requires residential developers to construct systems that separate black water from grey water.*



Greywater reuse systems in Jordan have helped families save an average of 10% of their incomes (IDRC Photo: Jan Kassay).

habitation — on steep hillsides or in low-lying areas — leaves these areas vulnerable to landslides and flooding. Environmental degradation also threatens natural resource assets — including fresh water, productive soil, and coastal reefs — upon which many urban farmers and fishers depend for their livelihoods.

Regrettably, most of the urban poor cannot escape these conditions. They cannot leave the slums and find new homes in the city because of the astronomically high cost of serviced land. And the limited political voice of the urban poor within municipal and national affairs makes it difficult for them to use the political system to effect change. So what can be done?

### **Rebuilding trust**

Municipal governments must take a lead role. They must rebuild trust with the urban poor through programs and policies that support disadvantaged people. Municipal governments must acquire from national governments the ability to finance environmental services through user fees, taxation powers, or capital markets. They must plan urban growth by developing participatory city development strategies that protect the environment, encourage economic growth, and ensure benefits are distributed fairly. And they must develop these strategies in ways that build trust and confidence between governments and all citizens, especially the poorest.

Moreover, these city development strategies cannot be drafted in isolation from what is happening on the ground. They need to be informed by research on the nature of poverty in cities, by a shared understanding of environmental burdens between local governments and local communities, and by the results of pilot projects that enlighten, validate, and refine development strategies and policies. But since it is not feasible to study an entire city at once, pilot projects in selected neighbourhoods are key.

Trust is built when local governments demonstrate that they are pro-poor and commit to working with communities on projects. And once the trust exists, daunting environmental problems in slums become solvable. When governments and their citizens work together, innovative win-win solutions can be identified. That's where UPE comes in.



Open sewage canals and poor drainage lead to environmental health risks and added costs in poor neighbourhoods (IDRC Photo: Denis Marchand).



## Urban Poverty and Environment Program

In 2005, IDRC developed a program to help inform city development strategies based on pilot projects that build trust and unleash innovation in poor neighbourhoods: the Urban Poverty and Environment Program (UPE). Expected to begin field work in the second half of 2006, the program is designed to ease the environmental burdens that exacerbate poverty in cities by strengthening the capacity of the poor to access environmental services, reduce environmental degradation, and enhance the use of natural resources for food, water, and income security. UPE will address the following inter-related themes: urban agriculture, water and sanitation, solid waste management, vulnerability to natural disasters, and land tenure. In doing so, UPE will help its partners understand the nature of environmental burdens, identify potential solutions, test interventions, assess policies, and contribute to planning, development, and implementation of policies.

### Focus neighbourhoods, cities, and countries

A key component of UPE is the Focus Cities Research Initiative (FCRI). FCRI will support multistakeholder research teams in nine cities around the world to promote awareness, policy options, and best practices to reduce environmental impacts in poor urban and peri-urban areas. Focusing on nine cities will enable UPE to concentrate its efforts, support sustained and in-depth research, and develop synergies with past and present development projects. Pilot projects are being implemented in target neighbourhoods to inform, validate, and help refine citywide development strategies aimed at sustainable and equitable urban development.



Poor drainage, flooding and lack of solid waste services are some of the visible key environmental impacts on this neighbourhood in Esmeraldas, Ecuador (IDRC Photo: Yves Beaulieu).

UPE will target much of its budget on two Focus Cities in each of four regions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa. A ninth project, which builds on an existing initiative in Argentina, will also be undertaken. These cities are currently being selected through a competitive process that ensures research teams include representatives of local government and link with municipally funded

development projects. In fact, five of these cities have already been selected and work is now underway. (See profiles of each of these cities beginning on page 10.) The remaining four will be selected by early 2007.

UPE intends to support sustained and in-depth research in these cities so that results have time to become apparent. Working in nine Focus Cities will also enable UPE to compare and contrast results and share lessons that can be applied more broadly. The initial projects will focus at the neighbourhood level while follow-up

## PROVIDING WATER AND SANITATION FOR THE URBAN POOR

*In 1993, water and sewer services in Buenos Aires were privatized. However, these services were not provided to low-income residents living in the peri-urban areas of the city. To address this environmental and health concern, IDRC sponsored an effort by the International Institute for Environment and Development in América Latina (IIED-AL) to assess how water and sewer services could be provided to the poorest areas of the city.*



Citizens, municipalities and the private sector partnering to build community sewer systems in San Fernando, Argentina (Photo: IIED-AL).

*As a result of this assessment, a partnership was created between the private service provider and the municipality of San Fernando to construct additional water and sewer systems. The private company was responsible for the design, while the citizens of San Fernando built the system.*

*By 1998, the level of water and sewer service had tripled in the city's peri-urban areas. The project was applauded by the Public-Private Partnerships for the Urban Environment*

*program of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which granted funding to IIED-AL to examine and disseminate lessons learned from the project. Building on these results, and with funding from UPE's Focus Cities Research Initiative, IIED-AL is working with the local government in Moreno, also in the Metropolitan Buenos Aires Area, to apply these multistakeholder partnership models in other sectors.*

## MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

*Natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean killed more than 45 000 people in the 1990s. Thanks to the Integrated System for Environmental Management (SIGA), cities can now limit the impact of these disasters. Developed with the support of IDRC, SIGA helps municipalities identify and reduce environmental risks. SIGA uses a computerized geographical information system to process and synthesize environmental, geological and socio-economic data. The system combines this data with traditional maps, charts and satellite imagery to help identify areas that are prone to environmental problems. Armed with this knowledge, city authorities can develop prevention and emergency response plans tailored to conditions in their community.*

*The Municipality of Pergamino, Argentina, in association with a research centre, is working towards implementing SIGA, which will enable the municipality to identify and reduce potential flood risks. And work is currently underway to develop an early warning system*

*that will raise the alarm when flood waters threaten to reach dangerously high levels. Most importantly, however, municipal authorities now have a keen appreciation for the topography of the region, and are designing infrastructure with careful attention to natural drainage systems, runoff patterns and the city's new water management plan.*



SIGA helps city planners identify areas of risk and plan for disasters, such as this landslide in Quito, Ecuador (IDRC Photo: Yves Beaulieu).

*In Managua, Nicaragua, within the framework of a regional project on integrated risk management, a training program for municipal employees was carried out on SIGA as a tool for understanding,*

*regulating and planning the use of land. Project authorities and civil society are also helping to generate key information that enables SIGA to map threats and vulnerable areas.*

projects will focus on different neighbourhoods or on different themes within the same city. Studies in different parts of the same country will illuminate rural-urban linkages and the role of national governments on urban issues.

### Outcomes that improve people's lives

UPE concentrates on research that helps advance progress toward the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This effort means focusing not only on, for example, improving the number of people with access to services, but also asking the probing questions behind these statistics.

For example, policymakers might be satisfied if investments lead to water standpipes within 200 metres of every urban household. But UPE-supported researchers will ask several additional questions to probe whether the systems really do improve people's lives: Can water in the standpipe be safely drunk and used in food preparation? Is there enough water for washing, food preparation, laundry, and personal hygiene? Do people have to queue for two or more hours to access the water? Is there pressure from others in the queue not to take too much? Is a nearby washroom available? Is it clean? Can low-income households afford to use it? Does it include a sink with clean water and soap? Is it safe for women and children to use, especially after dark?

Accordingly, provision of a water supply does not necessarily imply improved public health. Malarial mosquitoes may breed in standing pools of water as a result of poor drainage. Children may contract diarrhea by playing near faeces. Uncollected garbage may eventually clog drainage pipes and open ditches may overflow during rains.

### Engaging local communities and local governments

In the nine Focus Cities, UPE will support multistakeholder and gender-sensitive participatory research in pilot neighbourhoods to help solve these and other complex, interrelated problems. While proposals for research projects are developed, researchers will visit the neighbourhoods to familiarize themselves with community concerns. Joint proposal development workshops will also be held at which different teams can compare their work. In addition, each Focus City team will be able to define outcomes that it wishes to see during the life of the project, identify indicators to define these outcomes, and monitor them regularly so the impact of the research can be assessed.

These Focus City projects will give community groups the opportunity to bring forward concerns, and fully and equally contribute to debates on issues that affect them. Neither a top-down nor a bottom-up approach will lead to sustainable initiatives. As evidence has demonstrated, however, strategies that include the urban poor are effective only with the participation of both the community and policymakers. Focus Cities research teams

will include community groups that represent the urban poor, as well as local and national governments, and the private sector.

Once a proposal has been approved, the project will be launched publicly through a mayoral declaration and the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the local community and the municipal government. During the project, a city consultation will be held so that community groups and local governments can discuss the results and agree on follow-up action. Final results of the neighbourhood approach will then be used to inform and refine citywide strategies.

### Sharing and using knowledge within the network

UPE will also help research teams within the Focus Cities to share knowledge and encourage municipal policy-makers to use that knowledge. These objectives will be accomplished by including representatives of local governments on Focus City teams and by strengthening existing multistakeholder approaches in particular cities.

Knowledge produced by Focus City teams will be peer-reviewed at two program learning forums, and then presented and shared with all teams. A second city consultation will be held to validate policy briefs intended for decisionmakers.

In addition to presentation of results at periodic international conferences, such as the World Urban Forums, and regular UPE website updates, IDRC will sponsor an international UPE conference upon folding the projects. At this event, research findings will be presented and shared with other Focus City teams, and with academic and donor partners.

### Introducing five Focus Cities

FCRI will target nine cities in total; five have already been selected. The profiles on the following pages introduce these five cities and the work that is currently underway to promote awareness, policy options and best practices to reduce environmental impacts.



### SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION ON URBAN AGRICULTURE

*The network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF) performs a number of vital roles to disseminate knowledge and information related to urban agriculture. The RUAF network uses expert consultants and e-conferences to turn data on urban agriculture into practicable knowledge. The network also sponsors multistakeholder workshops, consults with local officials, and develops policy briefs and urban action plans to influence municipal policy. In fact, this approach has led several municipal*



Urban agriculture accounts for half of local food sources in Kampala (Photo: Marielle Dubbeling).

*governments (Rosario, Quito, Harare and Cotonou) to make important commitments to urban agriculture, such as the transfer of government land to farmer's groups in Cotonou, Benin.*

*In addition, RUAF produces a variety of information products in various media. For instance, the organization's website includes a contacts database of more than 4 500 names and a bibliographical database of some 5 600 entries. RUAF has also produced an award-winning video on urban agriculture and publishes Urban Agriculture, a magazine available in six languages.*

*Most recently, RUAF has supported the integration of urban agriculture into programs of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), enhanced the transfer of knowledge among six cities, and collaborated on eight projects sponsored by its Cities Farming for the Future project. The next phase of RUAF will focus on helping local partners build development capacity and reach out to stakeholders, such as farming groups.*





Focus City:

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA

Subject:

IMPROVING LAND TENURE AND



Improving infrastructure and stabilizing incomes are key poverty reduction strategies in Colombo (IDRC Photo: Andrés Vélaz-Guerra).



economic growth, improve infrastructure, and prevent the rise of income and consumption disparities.

### Seeking answers in cities

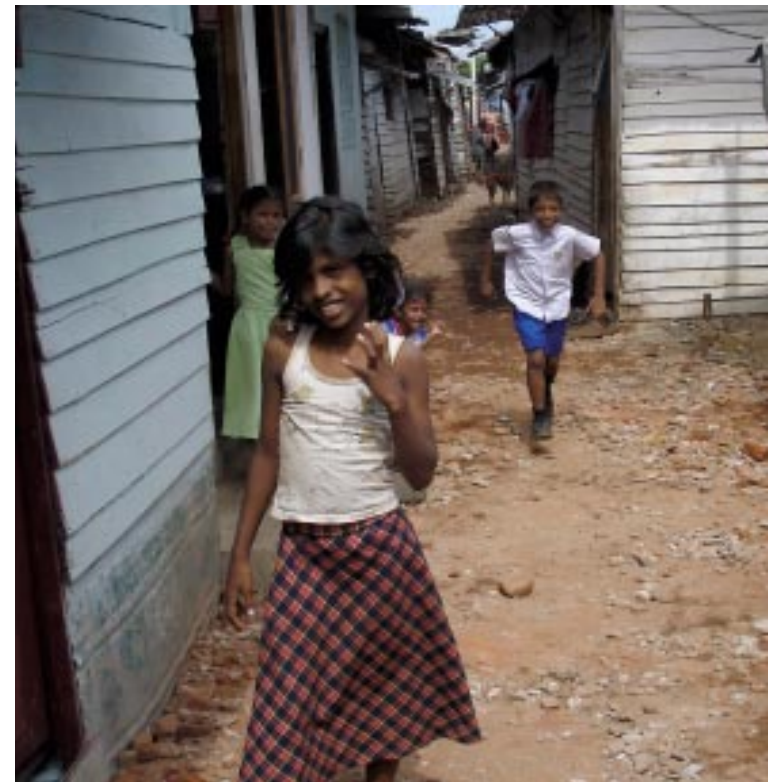
Just over 5 percent of Sri Lanka's 19 million residents live in the capital city of Colombo, where the country's financial and political powers are concentrated. Defined in per capita terms, poverty is far less endemic in Colombo than the rest of the country. Obscured by Colombo's relative affluence, however, are socio-economic problems

In terms of human development, Sri Lanka ranks among Asia's most advanced nations. The country has made significant investments in areas such as health, education, and women's development despite its low per-capita income.

While remarkable, this achievement masks areas where improvements are needed to achieve the MDGs. Child malnutrition, for example, is still high despite a reduction in infant mortality. Progress on improving incomes of the

poor has been slow despite steady annual GDP growth rates of five percent throughout the 1990s and up to 2002. The civil war accounts for part of Sri Lanka's problem, continually draining resources. The tsunami of 2004 destroyed much of the country's coastline, causing US \$1.5 billion in damage and inflicting suffering on vulnerable segments of the population.

To ensure continued progress, and achievement of the MDGs, Sri Lanka will have to maintain strong



Approximately half of the city's housing is considered sub-standard and underserved by urban services (IDRC Photo: Andrés Vélaz-Guerra).



# ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION



Recent initiatives have resulted in upgrades, such as this drainage canal, in the Gothamipura District (IDRC Photo: Mark Redwood).

that stem from the high costs of food and water, lack of infrastructure and services, and overcrowded living conditions. Approximately half of the city's housing is considered sub-standard and underserved by urban services. Colombo ranks 14<sup>th</sup> among 18 Asian cities in the areas of health, education, waste management, infrastructure, and productive growth. A poverty analysis conducted by the city found that a lack of stable income is the critical factor preventing the urban poor from improving their situations.

## Facing the challenge

In response, Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) has made a firm commitment to poverty reduction and evidence-based policy change. Colombo has the highest per capita expenditure on poverty reduction compared with 18 other Asian cities, and several policies and programs have been implemented to improve settlement conditions. Significant progress has been made as a result of these initiatives, which are part of a recent drive to improve

participatory development initiatives and increase municipal government action in urban development.

In fact, CMC is a recognized leader in urban development. The city plays a central role in IDRC's Edible Landscape Project, for example (see page 05). Led by McGill University, the project explores how city planning can accommodate urban agriculture and provide the poor with opportunities to grow food for their families.

**IN RESPONSE, COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (CMC) HAS MADE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY CHANGE.**

**COLOMBO HAS THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE ON POVERTY REDUCTION COMPARED WITH 18 OTHER ASIAN CITIES.**

## BUILDING ON PAST CITY PROJECTS

With funding from the United Kingdom Department for International Development, UNDP and UN-Habitat, the CMC has worked with Sevanatha to develop a comprehensive poverty profile of the city and improve services provision in various settlements. This project led to the development of a citywide Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework. Included is a progressive policy to give US \$12 000 annually to each council member to spend on improving basic services in underserved settlements.

## Focus City initiative

Building on CMC's 2002 Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework, the Colombo Focus City Team is implementing a project to address environmental degradation through research on improved urban service delivery. Of particular interest to the City Team is the link between land tenure, and water and sanitation services. The project will

focus on the Gothamipura district and, through consultation with the community, lead to the design of an integrated model of service delivery that can be applied throughout Colombo. Led by CMC, the Colombo City Team includes Sevanatha — a local development NGO — and the Center for Poverty Analysis, a research institution.





Focus City: **DAKAR** **SENEGAL**

Subject: **THE MBEUBEUSS LANDFILL:**

In recent years, Senegal has achieved relatively strong economic growth and good decentralized governance. In 2004, GDP growth was 6 percent compared with a 4.4 percent average in Sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty, however, continues to be a national problem. In 2003, just over a quarter of the population survived on an average of US \$1 per day; nearly 70 percent manage on less than US \$2 per day.

About half of Senegal's 11 million citizens live in urban areas; more than 2.5 million live in the Dakar region — the country's centre of administrative and economic power. In fact, the Dakar region is home to a disproportionate share of the country's poor in its four *départements*: Dakar, Guédiawaye, Pikine, and Rufisque. Efforts to decentralize governance have resulted in more than 65 of Senegal's municipalities signing contracts with the



Local residents depend on waste collected from the landfill to reuse or sell (IDRC Photo: Jean D'Aragon).

national government. The contracts commit each municipality to explicit standards of improved performance. These agreements have set the stage for improved local institutions and responsiveness to citizens.

**"A danger for the whole country"**  
The lack of adequate and integrated solid waste management is a priority issue for the Dakar region. The Mbeubeuss landfill is the only facility of its kind in the area. Situated in the Pikine *département*, Mbeubeuss receives approximately



Urban agriculture activities near the landfill lead to environmental and health risks (IDRC Photo: Luc Mougeot).

460 000 tonnes of waste each year.

Many local people live in and around the dumpsite and derive their living scavenging the waste, recycling plastics and metals, or earning livelihoods from innovative reuse of materials. IDRC-supported research has found that urban agriculture in the area is an important and stable source of local income. Many of these activities, however, expose residents to health risks. High levels of contaminants

threaten land and ground water near the landfill. The Mayor of Dakar has called it a "danger for the whole country; a bomb about to explode."

#### Focus City initiative

For more than three years there have been plans to relocate the landfill. At the request of the local government, the Dakar Focus City Team, coordinated by the African Institute for Urban Management, is conducting research with local stakeholders to inform policies for

safe and sustainable uses for the landfill site. Piloting interventions in the Malika neighbourhood, the team will explore ways to develop appropriate local options to reduce health impacts, improve the environment, and create employment. The Sustainable Cities Initiative of Industry Canada — a government department — and Quebec-based Econoler International are also working with the project team to examine the potential to extract methane from the landfill and

**MBEUBEUSS RECEIVES APPROXIMATELY  
460 000 TONNES OF WASTE EACH YEAR.**

**MANY LOCAL PEOPLE LIVE IN AND AROUND  
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THE WASTE, RECYCLING PLASTICS AND METALS,  
OR EARNING LIVELIHOODS FROM INNOVATIVE  
REUSE OF MATERIALS.**





# EXPLORING OPTIONS TO PROTECT HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND LIVELIHOODS



qualify for carbon emissions credits under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. The combined research will contribute to future integrated solid waste management policies for the entire region, and will also provide solutions for the social and environmental rehabilitation of landfills throughout Africa.

The Dakar City Team includes:

- African Institute of Urban Management (IAGU);
- Industry Canada's Sustainable Cities Initiative, with Econoler International and The Paul Gérin-Lajoie Foundation;
- Fundamental Institute of Black Africa (IFAN);
- ENDA — an environmental NGO;
- the Centre for Horticultural Development;
- the National Ministry of the Environment;
- Interstate School of Veterinary Sciences and Medicine (EISMV);
- Institute of Health and Development (ISED);
- the Senegalese Agency for Waste Management (APROSEN);
- the city of Pikine; and
- AMA-Senegal — a solid waste management company operating in the region.



A local man makes his living making dolls from collected parts found in the Mbeubeuss landfill (IDRC Photo: Jean D'Aragon).

## BUILDING ON PAST CITY PROJECTS

The City of Pikine is working with IAGU and other key members of the Dakar Focus City Team on the IDRC-supported Cities Farming for the Future project of the network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF; see page 09). Through a multistakeholder policymaking and action planning process, the project aims to engage urban producers in decision-making and institutionalize urban agriculture into local planning. A study on urban agriculture in Pikine has been produced and action plans developed for a one-year pilot project.





Indonesia

Focus City: **JAKARTA**

Subject: **EXAMINING ECONOMIC**



Residents in Penjaringan rely on trash scavengers to collect waste, which is then sold to recyclers (Photo: Nur Endah Shofiani).



Indonesia is the world's fourth largest country with an estimated population of 217 million in 2003. Between the 1960s and 1990s, the Indonesian economy was regarded as a model of development; GDP growth rates reached 8 percent, and poverty declined from almost 60 percent to 11 percent of the population. The Asian economic crisis of 1997, however, led to one of the most dramatic depressions in recent history. While Indonesia has made a significant recovery, its economic growth still

lags behind Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, Indonesia still has the potential to be one of the large, fast-growing developing countries that will change the world economic order over the next two decades.

#### Undergoing change

Since 2001, Indonesia has been undergoing both rapid urbanization and a large-scale decentralization, transferring various responsibilities to regional and local governments. Current annual spending on infrastructure has reached only 80 per-

cent of pre-economic crisis levels, while population pressures on essential services have grown unabated. Nearly half of Indonesian households suffer from unsanitary conditions, and health risks are among the highest in East Asia. The health and environmental consequences, and economic losses amount to an estimated 2.4 percent of GDP — equivalent to approximately US \$7 billion per year.

#### Focus City initiative

Expected to become East Asia's



Water bought from vendors and stored in plastic containers must be boiled before drinking (Photo: Nur Endah Shofiani).





# INDONESIA

# INCENTIVES FOR IMPROVED WATER, SANITATION, AND SOLID WASTE SERVICES

largest metropolitan region by 2015, Jakarta has benefited from ongoing interaction between centralized government, and local planning and development authorities. Decentralization, however, has generated confusion about responsibilities and stalled some infrastructure improvements. The Jakarta Focus City Team is implementing a project to help build the capacities of governments, communities, and the private sector to work together for improved service provision.

The project's strategy is to create economic incentives for environmental upgrades in low-income urban neighbourhoods by combining



Community initiatives, such as this waste collection micro-enterprise, help poor residents earn income while improving neighbourhoods at the same time. (IDRC Photo: Ann Thomas).

income-earning activities and pro-poor market solutions with environmental services provision. Interventions will be geared towards household-level income generating opportunities, and may include expanded waste pickup and recycling services, biogas systems, and

water treatment and delivery. The project is currently underway in Kelurahan Penjaringan, one of Jakarta's largest slum areas, where well water is not potable due to salinization and other contamination, and most households have to buy water from distributors at extremely high costs; all water has to be boiled before drinking. Incidences of malaria and cholera are increasing, and acute respiratory infections, skin infections and diarrhea are the three highest ranked reported diseases. The project will be informed by an ongoing IDRC-supported project on community-based solid waste management in Bali.

## Participatory model

An important aspect of the project is the participation not only of local communities, but also sanitation, health and planning department staff from governments at all levels. The local government has also

## BUILDING ON PAST CITY PROJECTS

The Government of Indonesia, with support from the World Bank, has been implementing a sub-district development program (Program Peningkatan Kecamatan, or PPK) since 1998. Targeted towards lower-income community groups, about US\$100 000 is distributed annually to every urban village in Jakarta: 20 percent for infrastructure improvements, 20 percent for health interventions, and 60 percent for economic development initiatives. These funds have helped improve participatory and decentralized governance throughout the city.

committed funds to the project and will provide further access to funds from the national program for local infrastructure improvements. Building on this support, the City Team hopes to demonstrate the value of community leadership combined with responsive government assistance.

Mercy Corps Indonesia leads the Jakarta City Team, which includes:

- local, provincial and national government authorities;
- the Urban and Regional Development Institute (URDI) ;
- the USAID-funded Environmental Services Program; and
- Swisscontact — an economic development institution.

**SINCE 2001, INDONESIA HAS BEEN UNDERGOING BOTH RAPID URBANIZATION AND A LARGE-SCALE DECENTRALIZATION, TRANSFERRING VARIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES TO REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**





Focus City: **KAMPALA** **UGANDA**

Subject: **BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE,**

Experts estimate that individual countries will require real GDP growth of at least six percent per year to reach the MDGs. Uganda is one of only four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that have sustained growth rates close to this target in the past decade. The country's success can be attributed to its strong industrial and services sectors, and to reasonably strong local investment capacity. As a result, poverty rates have decreased from about 56 percent of the

population in 1992 to 38 percent in 2003.

In certain respects, Uganda exceeds the MDGs when compared with other low-income countries. For example, the country has higher than average primary school enrollment and ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 154 countries for the ratio of female-earned income to male-earned income. However, significant challenges still exist. Ugandans have an average life expectancy



Regular flooding results in environmental and sanitation risks in the Kawaala-Kasubi neighbourhood (IDRC Photo: Jean D'Aragon).

of 43 years compared with 46 years for all of Sub-Saharan Africa. Access to environmental services is still far below average; an estimated 37 percent of the urban population was without access to safe water in 2003.

While only 12 percent of its 27 million people reside in urban areas — a ratio that is low compared to the rest of the Sub-Saharan Africa region — nearly half of those people live in Kampala alone, increasing pressure on already limited



infrastructure and services. Poverty and unemployment levels remain high. The poorest of Kampala's citizens live in the most risk-prone, valley-bottom areas of the city,

where flooding, poor sanitation, waterborne diseases, and accumulation of solid wastes pose serious hazards. Although these lands are considered public, and tenure does not exist, Kampala City Council has embarked on a public housing and slum upgrade program to improve settlement conditions.

#### The city feeds itself

Kampala households rely heavily on local natural resources for a range of activities, including agriculture and organic recycling. In fact, in Kampala — known as the “garden



Kampala is known as the “garden city of Africa” (IDRC Photo: Jean D'Aragon).

**KAMPALA HOUSEHOLDS RELY HEAVILY ON LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE AND ORGANIC RECYCLING. IN FACT, IN KAMPALA [...] URBAN AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LAND USE. THE PRACTICE ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY HALF OF LOCAL FOOD SOURCES.**



# COHESIVE COMMUNITY THROUGH WASTE RECYCLING AND AGRO-ENTERPRISE

city of Africa” — urban agriculture (UA) is the most significant land use. For decades, residents of Kampala have relied on UA for food, employment and income. The practice accounts for nearly half of local food sources.

Past IDRC-supported research has helped underline the significant

value of UA as an income-earning livelihood for Kampala’s poor. The results of this research have helped Kampala City Council develop by-laws to make UA legal, while providing measures to protect public health. The council is also involved in the IDRC-supported Edible Landscape Project (ELP; see page 05, box to right), a project

to integrate UA into urban planning and housing design on land donated by the city.

## Focus City initiative

The Kampala Focus City project builds on ELP’s success by integrating sustainable waste-management practices with efforts to enhance urban agriculture production, particularly for small, income-earning agro-enterprises. The project is engaging the Kawaala-Kasubi community and local government authorities — including a Kampala district mayor — to explore innovative options for solid and liquid waste management, help boost citizens’ income-earning potential, and improve local environmental conditions.

The Kampala City Team includes:

- Urban Harvest — part of the International Potato Centre;
- Kampala City Council;

## BUILDING ON PAST CITY PROJECTS

In 2001, Kampala city government set out to revise existing legislation related to urban farming. Two years later, the Kampala City Council District Extension Office, in collaboration with KUFSALCC, spearheaded a consultative process to re-examine draft bills for five city ordinances. By engaging a range of stakeholders — especially urban farmers — five ordinances were created to regulate all forms of urban agriculture. Two ordinances are currently being piloted to enable an impact assessment. Through the IDRC-supported Edible Landscape Project (see page 05), municipal officials, architects and urban planners are working closely with community members on land donated by the city to improve housing, income and food security for some of Kampala’s most vulnerable citizens.

- the Kampala Urban Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Coordinating Committee (KUFSALCC);
- National Environmental Management Authority;
- Environmental Alert — a local community-based organization;
- Makerere University; and
- the Ugandan Ministry of Agriculture.



Brickmaking is a significant livelihood activity in Kampala; this brickmaker is working with the Edible Landscape Project (IDRC Photo: Jean D’Aragon).







Focus City:

MORENO

ARGENTINA

Subject:

## ADVANCING A MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP



Moreno is one of the poorest municipalities in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (Photo: IIED-AL).



Barrio Milenio, a neighbourhood in Moreno, has a community water tank operated by local citizens (Photo: IIED-AL).

Rising food prices, for example, placed significant strain on citizens already struggling economically. By the end of 2002, poverty had escalated from 37 to 58 percent of the population. Unemployment remained as high as 18 percent in 2003.

Since 2003, however, the economy has been recovering strongly; GDP growth in 2003 and 2004 averaged 9 percent — up from -0.8 percent in 2000. In May 2004, unemployment was at 14 percent and decreasing steadily. The government's contri-

bution to the recovery included a 21 percent increase in spending on programs targeted towards the poor between 2001 and 2002. By 2005, Argentina was ranked 34<sup>th</sup> among the world's biggest economies, and third in the Latin America and the Caribbean region behind Brazil and Mexico.

#### Key urban issues

An estimated 90 percent of Argentina's 38 million inhabitants live in urban areas where unemployment and access to services are key issues. In the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area, water services have been privatized since the 1990s. The economic crisis, however, posed serious challenges to this service model and demonstrated the need for new and more flexible approaches. Local governments are now building partnerships between communities, the private sector, regulators, and municipal



At the height of Argentina's 2001 economic crisis, the country had defaulted on its debt, gross domestic product was shrinking, the unemployment rate had reached

25 percent, the Argentine peso had lost 75 percent of its value, and the rate of inflation was climbing to an unprecedented high. The impact on the urban poor was devastating.



# MODEL FOR URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



An estimated 90% of Argentina's population lives in urban areas (© CIDA Photo: Patricio Baeza).

authorities as a strategy to deliver urban water and sanitation services.

One such government is in Moreno, one of the poorest municipalities within Buenos Aires. Of its 400 000 inhabitants, 65 percent live below the poverty line, compared to 32 percent in the metropolitan area as a whole. Despite improvements made over recent years, only 33 percent of Moreno residents are connected to water networks; fewer than 20 percent are connected to sewers.

**BY THE END OF 2002, POVERTY HAD ESCALATED FROM 37 TO 58 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINED AS HIGH AS 18 PERCENT IN 2003.**

**BY 2005, ARGENTINA WAS RANKED 34<sup>TH</sup> AMONG THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ECONOMIES, AND THIRD IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION BEHIND BRAZIL AND MEXICO.**

## The power of partnerships

The Municipality of Moreno has developed an integrated urban planning strategy that is specifically designed to address unemployment and poverty. With the International Institute for Environment and Development in América Latina (IIED-AL), Moreno has developed a successful partnership model for the provision of water supply and sanitation. IIED-AL has been active in the Buenos Aires area for more than 15 years, particularly in building partnerships for water services

provision. The organization led an IDRC-funded project to construct alternative water and sanitation infrastructure in neighbouring San Fernando. By 1998, service coverage had almost tripled and the experience was commended by the UNDP as an example of good water services practice (see page 07).

Building on this project, the Moreno Focus City Team — led by IIED-AL in close collaboration with the Municipality of Moreno and local community groups — will adapt

and test the partnership model to address other urban environmental burdens in three pilot neighbourhoods. Depending on priorities identified through participatory assessment, the project will focus on solid waste management, urban

agriculture, or vulnerability to natural disasters. Central to the project is the municipality's desire to establish a partnership-based sustainable development unit that will guide future environmental policy and management.

## BUILDING ON PAST CITY PROJECTS

Since 2001, IIED-AL, with funding from UNDP, has been working with the Municipality of Moreno to develop a partnership-based management unit for the provision of water and sanitation services to informal settlements. Past experience had demonstrated that the only way to expand services to the urban poor was through partnerships between local government, the private sector, and community groups. Through participatory assessments with local communities, an updated and detailed map of water and sanitation coverage was developed. The map provided details of coverage offered in each neighbourhood and helped the management unit prioritize areas for interventions. The management unit is now in the process of establishing a local water authority.



## STAY FOCUSED

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UPE aims to share knowledge to accelerate progress in other urban centres around the world. For more information about UPE and the Focus Cities Research Initiative, visit the IDRC website: [www.idrc.ca/upe](http://www.idrc.ca/upe) or email: [upe@idrc.ca](mailto:upe@idrc.ca).

### Learn more

Contact the Focus Cities Project Leaders or IDRC Program Officers to learn more about specific projects.

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IDRC's **Urban Poverty and Environment Program (UPE)** supports integrated and participatory research to reduce environmental burdens on the urban poor, and enhance the use of natural resources for food, water, and income security. Contributing knowledge to inform achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, UPE envisions a world in which urban citizens thrive in healthy and dignified environments — where all stakeholders, including those most marginalized, play an active and effective role in sustainable development.

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